

Proclamation 6083 of December 11, 1989

**National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week,
1989**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we prepare to celebrate the holidays and rejoice in the promise of the new year, it is fitting that we pause to remember the perils of drinking and driving. Each year, traffic accidents caused by drunk and drugged driving claim the lives of thousands of Americans. Many others are seriously injured as a result of such incidents. This week, we renew our commitment, as individuals and as a Nation, to keeping our roads and highways safe—not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year.

In past years, programs and activities held in observance of National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week have proven to be effective in enhancing public awareness of the dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. These programs and activities have been organized by concerned citizens and business leaders, as well as by public officials at all levels of government. Through candle-light vigils, safety campaigns, and voluntary efforts to provide rides from holiday parties, private citizens and business owners have helped focus greater attention on the problem of drunk and drugged driving. Governors, mayors, and other local officials have not only issued proclamations in observance of this week, but have also appointed special task forces to address the issue. The introduction of new drunk driving legislation in various States and the implementation of innovative law enforcement and detection programs have helped improve the safety of roads and highways across the country. These successful voluntary efforts and coordinated governmental activities demonstrate how each and every American can join in the fight against drunk and drugged driving.

Tragically, however, while we have made considerable progress in our efforts to reduce alcohol- and drug-impaired driving, approximately half of all fatal motor vehicle collisions continue to be alcohol-related. Some 80 percent of these accidents involve a legally intoxicated driver or pedestrian. These statistics mean that, during 1988, alcohol played a role in more than 23,000 traffic deaths. The toll in terms of personal suffering and loss can never be measured.

The observance of National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week reminds us of how much more we have to do in order to eliminate this senseless carnage of our Nation's roads and highways. Each of us must recognize the grave dangers posed by drinking and driving, and we must refuse to tolerate it. We must also recognize that drugs—including prescribed medications and those purchased over-the-counter—can seriously impair one's judgment and driving ability, whether taken alone or in combination with alcohol.

This week provides an opportunity for all Americans to become involved in the campaign against drunk and drugged driving. We can do so by supporting the work of local law enforcement officials and by demonstrating a sense of personal responsibility ourselves. We can en-

courage friends and neighbors who consume alcohol to do so in moderation; and when a friend or neighbor drinks, we can refuse to let him or her drive. We can also wear a safety belt whenever we are behind the wheel, and we can insist that passengers do the same.

In order to encourage more citizens to become involved in efforts to improve the safety of our Nation's roads and highways, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 429, has designated the week of December 10 through December 16, 1989, as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of December 10 through December 16, 1989, as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week. I ask each American to help improve the safety of our highways by refusing to tolerate drunk and drugged driving. I also call upon the Governors of the several States, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, the chief officials of local governments, and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of Dec. 11, 1989, on signing Proclamation 6083, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 25, p. 1928).

Proclamation 6084 of December 14, 1989

Wright Brothers Day, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Less than a century ago, Orville and Wilbur Wright ushered in the age of modern aviation with the first sustained, manned flight in a mechanically propelled aircraft. Although their flight lasted only 12 seconds and spanned only 120 feet over the windy beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, it began an exciting process of design, trial, and discovery that continues to this day.

Today, as we recall the historic events of that cold, windy December afternoon in 1903, we also celebrate the tremendous progress in aviation that has been made during the past 86 years. Advances in air transportation have linked nations and continents, bringing the peoples of the world ever closer together. Man has journeyed into space, and American astronauts have walked on the moon. Now we are shaping further plans for manned space flight beyond Earth's orbit and into the solar system.